

U.S. Application No. 10/525,265
Response dated June 24, 2010
Response to Office Action mailed December 18, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the Claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of distance learning comprising the steps of:
 - a) installing on least one education center server of an educational platform (3) for database management, data transfer and communication amongst the education system users;
 - b) dividing the education program into several education levels (10, 11, 12, 13, 14), of which each one education level includes at least one module ($M_1, M_2, \dots M_n$), the at least one module-corresponding in its contents to a subject of a traditional education;
 - c) registering each student (1), within a registration (20), at an education center;
 - d) providing each registered student (1), within the registration (20), with at least one electronic data carrier in the form of CD or DVD disk for each module ($M_1, M_2, \dots M_n$), and also with an access password (35) to the educational platform (3), the single CD or DVD disk containing a workshop material (32), a multi-media electronic textbook (33) for independent study, a starter package (34) including a particular didactic guide and a technical instruction as well as a software necessary to open the formats of the files contained in the workshop material (32) and the electronic textbook (33), and a syllabus (31);
 - e) establishing at least one interactive on-line session of electronic workshops (21) for each module ($M_1, M_2, \dots M_n$) within each education level (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) in a predetermined time after the registration (20) of the students (1), at least one interactive

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session being established through the educational platform (3) containing a web site and divided into several independent parts (A1, B1, B2, B3, B4) with the same or different duration, wherein in the part (A1) a presentation to the students (1) of the workshop material (32), a discussion of the issues by the lecturer (4), as well as students' replies to the lecturer's questions take place; in the part (B1) – transmitting by the lecturer (4) of exercises for individual resolution and their resolving by the students; in the part (B2) – checking of the exercise solutions by the lecturer (4) and a discussion between the students by means of remote communication means in the form of at least one tool selected from a group consisting of: electronic mail, voice mail, discussion group, chat and forum; in the part (B3) – summing-up of the issues and exercise solutions by the lecturer (4); and in the part (B4) – a discussion between the students (1) by means of remote communication in the form of at least one tool selected from a group consisting of: electronic mail, voice mail, discussion group, chat and forum;

wherein the students (1), who do not manage to login to the educational platform (3) before the start of the electronic workshops (21) are directed first into a "waiting room" and then automatically including them into the participation in the electronic workshops (21), preferably prior to the commencement of a next part of the workshops, the "waiting room" for delayed students (1) being created by parallel, shifted in time running of several similar electronic workshops (21);

and wherein during the interactive electronic workshops (21) for the students (1) is displayed an interface (40) including three main windows: an information window (41) in which all complementary information relating to the material discussed is presented, an action window (42) in which an educational material concerning the issues discussed by

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the lecturer (4) is presented, and a dialogue window (43) in which the syllabus (31), an index of key notions, definitions and formulas, a calculator, the electronic textbook (33) as well as the chat and the e-mail are presented, and tool bars (44 and 45);

f) activating electronic consultations (22) between the students (1) and the lecturers (4), following the termination of each interactive session of the electronic workshops (22), with use of remote communication means in the form of at least one tool selected from a group consisting of: electronic mail, voice mail, discussion group, chat and forum;

g) providing each student (1), following the termination of a predetermined session, preferably the first session of the electronic workshops (21), with a subject of a test work (23) for individual preparation and submission of a test work report to the university at a predetermined time; and

h) conducting a final examination (25, 25a) for each module (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n).

2. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein several first parts (A1) of electronic workshops (21) are run shifted in time.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein during the presentation of successive issues by the lecturer (4), the students (1) are provided with a list for saving Internet addresses relating to the issue discussed, to which new addresses are then attached to the list relating to consecutive issues.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic consultations (22) are conducted by means of the educational platform (3) with use of the e-mail and a discussion group that comprises the students (1) of a given module, and with a participation of an operator/consultant and/or the lecturers (4).

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein upon receipt of a question by an operator/consultant within the electronic consultations (22) a check is first made in a knowledge database and if it does contain an answer to the question asked, the operator/consultant transmits it to the student, while in the case of a lack of such an answer, the question is directed to a lecturer running a given module, which transmits the answer to the operator/consultant and the latter to the student.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the question received by the operator/consultant within the electronic consultations (22) and answer to the question, which were not contained in the knowledge database, are added to the knowledge database.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein a lecturer (4) is the operator/consultant of the electronic consultations (22).

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15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of activating interactive archived electronic workshops, the archived workshops being activated after the termination of the electronic workshops (21), but prior to returning the test work report, preferably solely to the scope of the first part (A1) of the electronic workshops (21).

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein after return of the control work, the lecturer (4) sends to the students (1) in a determined time, advantageously by electronic mail, results of the control work together with a commentary.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of activating interactive electronic reviews (24), the reviews being activated prior to the final examination (25, 25a) for each module (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) with a participation of the lecturer (4), the electronic reviews (24) comprising a repetition of the material covered within the electronic workshops (21) and a group discussion, with use of remote communication means in the form of at least one tool selected from a group consisting of: electronic mail, voice mail, discussion group, chat and forum.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the electronic reviews (24) are conducted similarly to the electronic workshops (21).

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of creating, prior to commencing the examination (25, 25a), a dynamic examination list which is blocked in a predetermined time before the start of the examination (25, 25a).

20. - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein all the information, terms and duration of individual components of the educational process, comprising the interactive electronic workshops (21), the archived workshops, the test works (23), the electronic reviews (24) and the examination (25, 25a), as well as control work subjects and results, and the examination grading, preferably together with general remarks and descriptions, are included in the web site of the educational platform (3), which is accessible through the use of the access password (35) and the student's identification number.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a dynamic electronic library in the web site of the educational platform (3), the library being accessible through the use of the access password (35) and the student's (1) identification number, and including: a list of Internet addresses or links useful for a given module, various complementary material like press articles, interviews, examples, additional exercises and problems, exemplary test works and examinations from previous years, advantageously with solutions, selected or all

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bachelor and master degree dissertations and other elaborations, features from the university's bulletins and the lecturers' publications.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to the claim 1, further comprising the step of checking, prior to the commencement of an electronic workshop session, of a computer's equipment and software necessary for the communication with the educational platform (3) and being in the possession of the students (1), the checking being made by means of test software included in the educational platform's web site, wherein in the case of finding by the test software of a deficiency of necessary software, an automatic installation of such software through the educational platform's web site follows.

25. - 31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in the action window (42) are presented videos, 3-D animations, 2-D illustrations, layouts, diagrams, texts and calculations, wherein the videos include at least one presentation selected from the group consisting of: video with a lecturer or other individual discussing an issue, recorded earlier or taken by a camera in real-time, video with an example illustrating an issue, interviews, documentary films as well as video showing utilization of computer programs, in particular of calculation sheets and databases.

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33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the tool bars (44 and 45) comprise communication buttons (48) including those for chat, e-mail and forum, and recall buttons (49) including recalls to the electronic textbook (33), to the glossary of terms, the syllabus (31), the Internet addresses and the calculator.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein in various phases of the electronic workshops (21) individual communication and recall buttons are enabled or disabled.

35. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the three main windows are operable to receive independent user interactions with the content of the three main windows, and wherein the three windows are customizable through user interactions.